

Senate Bill 33

**"REQUIRE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS
AND TO PROVIDE NOTIFICATION OF A COMPUTER SECURITY BREACH**

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444-2589

**Before the
Senate Local Government Committee
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Madam Chair, members of the committee, for the record my name is Steve Bender. I am the Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration.

Safeguarding the confidential, personal data stored in government systems is a paramount obligation of all units of government. Hardly a week goes by without a news story about citizens' personal information either being lost or stolen, creating a very real concern that citizens will become the victims of identity theft.

This bill addresses two important aspects of the problem. First, it requires all government units to establish procedures to safeguard the most critical piece of data, the Social Security Number. It calls for those procedures to include measures to eliminate unnecessary use of SSNs. That's an extremely important step in reducing the risk for the long term.

The State CIO has issued an interim policy for data protection that applies to state agencies and is consistent with this bill. Other units of government may find that policy useful as they develop the procedures called for by this bill.

The second aspect of problem addressed is notification of citizens when data protection measures have been breached. Our private sector counterparts are already required to notify those whose personal information has been compromised. This bill places a comparable responsibility on the government units holding SSNs within their systems. This removes a gaping hole in the notification process and gives our citizens the opportunity to take protective measures regardless of where the data breach occurred.

I urge your support for this legislation. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.